

Personal finance is a 21st century survival skill our nation’s young people need RIGHT NOW. Teachers don’t have time to wait for their state legislatures or boards of education to make room for this crucial course. As a result, teachers often deliver this instruction by any means necessary. In the long run, though, state legislatures and boards of education *must* play a role in building access to comprehensive personal finance courses. They have the power to marshall resources to fund and promote teacher PD, spread the word about new course offerings, deliver implementation guidance to administrators, establish clear content standards, and engage voters in the conversation over “the *one* course I wish I had in high school.”

When educators’ voices are heard at the state level, our message must be clear and consistent. Below, find a rubric to “grade” pending state legislation and board of education regulations impacting access to financial education - to help educators make their most informed case.

Exemplary, Passing, or Failing?

1. Read the legislation/regulation rubric below.

Bill/Regulation Provision	Exemplary (+10) Legislation/Regulation WILL INCREASE student access to 100% over time of implementation.	Passing (+5) Legislation/Regulation MAY INCREASE student access moderately over time of implementation.	Failing (-10) Legislation/Regulation WILL LIKELY HAVE A NEGLIGIBLE OR NEGATIVE IMPACT on student access.
Graduation Requirement	All students are required to take at least a one-semester, standalone personal finance course to graduate from high school.	All schools are required to offer at least one semester of standalone, comprehensive personal finance as an elective.	All school districts are required to embed personal finance instruction into other courses.
Implementation Timeline	Full implementation is expected to take place over 2 school years or more, giving school systems time to adjust.	Full implementation is expected to take place over 1 school year.	Full implementation expected to take place over less than one school year OR implementation timeline is not addressed.
Teacher Professional Development	Bill/regulation allocates funding to subsidize, promote, and/or host professional development opportunities for educators.	Bill/regulation establishes a list of third party providers of professional development for the course.	Bill/regulation does not address teacher professional development.

Standards Development & Review	Standards for the course are directly outlined, OR a clear standards review process is outlined, OR standards for the course are to be adopted from a national content standards set.	A task force is established to consider standards review and other components of a potential new course.	Bill/regulation does not address personal finance standards or establish a timeline for their development / adoption.
Teacher Certification & Endorsement	The bill/regulation lists existing endorsements that will qualify an educator to teach the new course OR the bill/regulation establishes a clear, concise process by which educators must become certified to teach the course.	The bill/regulation creates a task force to consider teacher certification for the course.	The bill/regulation does not address teacher certifications, credentials, or endorsements for teaching personal finance.
Delegation of Implementation Responsibilities	Departments, task forces or individuals are delegated to manage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> standards review (if part of bill) teacher certification (if part of bill) promotion of teacher PD opportunities, AND Implementation guidance for school administrators. 	Departments, task forces or individuals are delegated to manage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> standards review (if part of bill), AND implementation guidance for school administrators. 	No delegation of implementation responsibilities OR All implementation responsibility delegated to individual school districts.
Sum your bill's total across all categories (see example below), then predict the bill's likely impact below.			
Total Access Score Key	+10 or more	-10 through +5	-15 or less
	Bill will likely increase the number of students with access to required, comprehensive personal finance education.	Bill will likely have a <u>small impact</u> on the number of students with access to required, comprehensive personal finance education.	Bill will likely <u>reduce</u> the number of students with access to required, comprehensive personal finance education.

2a. Check out this example of legislation: [Florida's SB7071 \(2019\)](#), which established (among a list of other workforce education items) that all Florida school districts would be required to offer personal finance as an elective. Relevant subsections from the law pasted below.

“...revising Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for financial literacy; removing financial literacy standards as a component of economics...”
 “Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, all school districts must offer a financial literacy course consisting of at least one-half credit as an elective.”

2b. Florida SB7071 (2019) Access Score		Access Grade		
		Exemplary (+10)	Passing (+5)	Failing (-10)
Provision	Graduation Requirement		+5	
	Implementation Timeline			-10
	Teacher Professional Development			-10
	Standards Development & Review			-10
	Teacher Certification & Endorsement		+5	
	Delegation of implementation responsibilities			-10
	TOTAL Scores		+10	-40
Likely Impact(s) of Bill: Bill will likely reduce the number of students with access to required, comprehensive personal finance education.			Final Access Score: -30	

3. Copy and paste the language (can include the full text, a summary, just the relevant components, and/or any addendums) of a personal finance instruction bill that has been introduced in your state legislature here:

4. Now score your state's bill/regulation using this scoring form and the rubric above.		Access Grade		
		Exemplary (+10)	Passing (+5)	Failing (-10)
Provision	Graduation Requirement			
	Implementation Timeline			
	Teacher Professional Development			
	Standards Development & Review			
	Teacher Certification & Endorsement			
	Delegation of implementation responsibilities			
	TOTAL Scores			
		Final Access Score:		

Total Access Score Key	+10 or more	-10 through +5	-15 or less
	Bill will likely increase the number of students with access to required, comprehensive personal finance education.	Bill will likely have a negligible impact on the number of students with access to required, comprehensive personal finance education.	Bill will likely reduce the number of students with access to required, comprehensive personal finance education.

5. CALCULATE: Where does your calculated access score fall within the Total Access Score Key above? What is the expected impact on student access to required, comprehensive financial education?

6. ANALYZE: What are your state’ bill’s biggest strengths and weaknesses? What could be improved about the bill? Could the bill possibly be seen as a “stepping stone” bill to eventually get the state to a better level of access? Why or why not?

7. RESEARCH: who are the key stakeholders proposing the **weakest** parts of the bill? How about the **strongest** parts?